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MEMOIR

OF

WILLIAM C. ENDICOTT, LL.D.

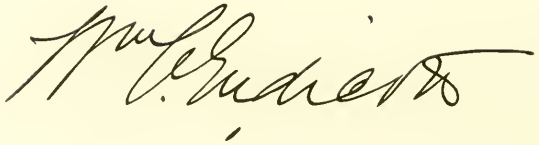
COMMUNICATED BY

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS

AT A MEETING OF

The Massachusetts Historical Society,

FEBRUARY 13, 1902.



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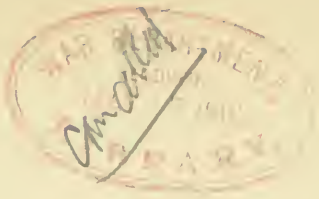

MEMOIR

THE task of preparing for our Proceedings a memoir of the late William Crowninshield Endicott was, some time since, assigned to me. Though I knew Judge Endicott many years, and, in common, I think, with all others, of whatever kind or condition, who came in contact with him, had been always sensible of his charm of presence and manner, yet I cannot pretend to have known him well. Our acquaintance, though somewhat casual, was always agreeable ; and I retain a fresh recollection of not a few incidents, anecdotes and sayings of his to me, always marked with that flavor of refinement and good fellowship which seemed inseparable from all he said and did. He was essentially a patrician ; as such he wore the robes of his order lightly, because they were natural to him. But I lacked both time and material out of which to produce a suitable memoir. I was not born in Salem, nor am I of Essex County. He was. My presentation of him would, therefore, have in it of necessity something of the touch of one not to the manner born. Under these circumstances, in pursuance of what I cannot regard otherwise than as an excellent practice, I had recourse to one much better informed and more intimately acquainted with the man. I went to his son, the present William C. Endicott, during our associate's life the younger of that name, and asked him if he would undertake the duty of preparing what must always remain the official record of his father's life and work. He consented

so to do; and it now affords me satisfaction to submit the memoir thus prepared.

William Crowninshield Endicott, who died at his residence in Boston (163 Marlborough Street) on Sunday, May 6, 1900, was elected a member of this Society on April 4, 1864. He was born at Salem on November 19, 1826, in a house at present standing on the corner of Curtis and Derby Streets. It is rather a curious fact that two Cabinet Ministers from Salem should have been connected with this house, for it was owned and had been occupied by his mother's uncle, Benjamin Williams Crowninshield, who was Secretary of the Navy, 1814–1817, under President Madison, and was afterwards a member of Congress for several years.

His parents, William Putnam and Mary Crowninshield Endicott were Unitarians, and on the first day of July, 1827, he was baptized William Gardner Endicott by the Rev. Dr. Flint, minister of the East Church at Salem. After the death of his uncle, William Crowninshield, who was lost at sea while making a voyage from Marseilles to Genoa, his name was changed on April 19, 1837, by a special Act of the Legislature, to William Crowninshield Endicott.

A lineal descendant of Governor John Endecott in the eighth generation, he came (excepting on the Crowninshield side of the family) of pure New England stock, and his ancestors on all sides can be traced back to the early settlers of Salem. The descendants of Governor Endecott were people in moderate circumstances, quiet, law-abiding citizens, who took no active part in politics outside the town of Danvers, and who for five generations tilled the soil and lived upon the Governor's estate, known as the "Orchard Farm" in Salem Village, now Danversport, which farm was granted to the Governor by the Court of Assistants on July 3, 1632. This estate was handed down from father to eldest son until 1828: at which date, it was sold and remained out of the family for sixty

years, when it was repurchased by a descendant of the Governor. Though somewhat diminished in size, this farm is now the property of a member of the family, and possesses a famous pear-tree still bearing fruit, said to have been planted by the Governor himself in 1635.

Mr. Endicott's grandfather, Samuel Endicott, moved to Salem at the end of the last century, and led a sea-faring life. At one time he and his five brothers (John, Moses, Jacob, William, and Timothy) were in command of vessels bound from Salem to distant ports.

From his mother he had either German or Swedish blood in his veins, for she was the great granddaughter of Johannes Caspar Richter Von Crowninscheldt, who came from Leipsic to Boston about 1688. His grandfather, Jacob Crowninshield, was a member of the Massachusetts Senate from 1800 to 1802, and a prominent Member of Congress from 1802 to 1808. He was appointed Secretary of the Navy by Jefferson at the beginning of his second term in 1805, and was confirmed as such by the United States Senate. Though his commission as Secretary of the Navy is on file in the Department of State at Washington, he declined the honor for personal reasons, — that he could not be absent all the year from his business and family. The correspondence between him and Jefferson (who was his intimate friend) on this subject, on trade, on finance, and on the political aspect of parties in New England, is a very interesting one, and is in part preserved. His career as a sailor and sea-captain (for he commanded a ship when he was twenty-two years old) was during that interesting period preceding and following the French Revolution, when the arbitrary decrees, paper blockades, seizures and detention of our ships and the imprisonment of our seamen vitally touched the sailors of New England. On all these questions he was thoroughly informed, as appears from his speeches and letters, for to careful study of these subjects, he had added experience from travel in many quarters of the globe. In

1800, he had left the sea and joined his father and brothers in the firm of George Crowninshield & Sons. Jacob Crowninshield died in Washington on April 15, 1808, at the early age of thirty-eight. After his death, the firm of George Crowninshield & Sons continued its foreign commerce and played a very conspicuous part in the War of 1812. They armed and equipped several privateers, one of which, the "America," became famous, had several sharp fights, and made numerous captures. The sum realized from her prizes is said to have amounted to several hundred thousand dollars. They not only gave their support to the Government, but it is a tradition that they loaned to the Government all the money they could from their business, and at times were crippled in their resources.

The name of Gardner, which Mr. Endicott first bore, came into the family from the wife of Jacob Crowninshield, who was Sarah Gardner, a daughter of John and Sarah (Derby) Gardner. It is somewhat remarkable that in a small place like Salem there appears to be only one instance where the families of Mr. Endicott's mother and father were connected. His father's family for many generations were much inclined to agriculture, and resided in the inland towns of Danvers, Middleton, Topsfield, Boxford, and Andover; while his mother's family were engaged in commerce and the various industries connected therewith. They lived for the most part in Salem, and took a prominent part in its political affairs.

With such tradition and surroundings, Mr. Endicott began his life.

He was educated in the public and private schools of Salem, and entered Harvard College in 1843 from the Salem Latin School. His scholarship was above the average, and during his college life, he acquired an unusual love of books which gave him an extended knowledge and acquaintance with literature. He graduated from Harvard in 1847. At his Commencement, he delivered a disquisition on "Public

Honors in Different Ages." Among his classmates were Charles Allen (afterwards Associate Justice on the Supreme Bench with him), John Brooks Felton, Henry Larned Hallett, Richard Manning Hodges, Augustine Heard and Andrew Cunningham Wheelwright. During the last year of his college life, it had been proposed that after graduation he should go to China, and enter one of the firms which at that time was very prosperous and appeared to have an unusual business opening for a young man. Strong as the temptation was to do this, Mr. Endicott believed that the law was his vocation, and immediately after his graduation he began its study in the office of Nathaniel J. Lord, at that time one of the most prominent lawyers in Salem. Those were the days in which the Essex Bar was particularly famous; for such men as Rufus Choate, Caleb Cushing, and Otis P. Lord were its leaders. Mr. Lord took keen interest in the work of his young student, showed an affectionate regard for him, and great satisfaction in the success which later came. Mr. Endicott always believed that the years spent in his office had been of untold benefit.

The winter of 1849–1850, he spent at the Harvard Law School, where he remained for one year, and in 1850 at the November Term of the Supreme Court sitting at Salem he was admitted to the Essex County Bar. His account-books show how meagre were the earnings of a lawyer in those days, and the first few years of his practice were hard and brought him but little remuneration. He stuck to it with grim tenacity, and his patience was soon rewarded.

In 1853 he formed a co-partnership — Perry & Endicott — with Jairus Ware Perry, well known as the author of "A Treatise on the Law of Trusts and Trustees." For twenty or more years, the firm of Perry & Endicott had a large portion of the legal practice in Essex County. Mr. Perry confined himself principally to office-work, and Mr. Endicott tried and argued the cases in court. While Mr. Endicott during these years worked hard at his profession, he was active in local pol-

itics and delivered political speeches in the various towns of the county, and lectures upon many subjects before the lyceums and other societies. He also interested himself more or less in the City Government of Salem by serving three terms in the Common Council, in 1852, in 1853, and again in 1857, when on January 25th, he was unanimously elected president of the Common Council. From 1858 to 1863 he was elected city solicitor of Salem, and though after that he does not appear to have been again elected city solicitor, he served in that capacity from time to time, through vote of the aldermen of the city.

For three years he was the candidate for Attorney-General on the Democratic ticket, with Theodore H. Sweetser, as a candidate for Governor in 1866 ; and with John Quincy Adams, as candidate for Governor in 1867 and 1868; and in the autumn of 1870 he was the Democratic candidate from the Fifth Congressional district for the Forty-Second Congress against Benjamin F. Butler, who had moved from his old Congressional District to Gloucester for the purpose of obtaining the Republican nomination. In each of these years Mr. Endicott shared defeat with the other Democratic candidates.

On February 23, 1873, the General Court of Massachusetts passed an act increasing the number of the Associate Justices of the Supreme Judicial Court to six. At that time no Democrat was upon the bench. Governor Washburn, a Republican governor, appointed Mr. Endicott to fill the judgeship, which has ever been considered a graceful and public-spirited act. The appointment was a great surprise to him, — there was no solicitation for the office, either on his part or that of his friends, as far as he knew, — and his first knowledge of the fact was when his friend and classmate, the Hon. Charles Allen asked him whether he would accept the position from the Governor. Having signified his willingness to do so, the appointment was made on March 5, 1873, and on March 8,

1873, Mr. Endicott qualified as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts. The court at that time consisted of Chief-Justice Chapman, Horace Gray, Jr., John Wells, James D. Colt, Seth Ames, and Marcus Morton.

During the next nine years, Mr. Endicott devoted his time and his strength to the work of the court. Laborious as the work was in those days, he was entirely absorbed in it, and only too gladly gave his whole energy to what he considered his duty. The method of work then was far more difficult than at present, owing to the lack of general employment of stenographers and typewriters. For the most part his opinions were written in his own handwriting. His opinions (378 in number) are to be found in the Massachusetts Reports, Vols. 112–133, and of these many opinions, written during the nine years of his service as judge of the court, "not one of his opinions has been overruled." [1]

The strain of this life told upon Mr. Endicott's health, and in the spring of 1882 he went to Europe. On October 25th of that year, he resigned his seat upon the bench, and travelled abroad for some eighteen months. Of his original colleagues upon the Bench, Chief-Justice Morton alone remained, and reluctantly handed to the Governor the resignation which he had urged Mr. Endicott to reconsider, thereby expressing the wish of the Court. His resignation was accepted by Governor Long, who wrote the following letter: —

"It is with the greatest reluctance and only upon conviction that your determination is final that I accept your resignation of the office of Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court. I express the unanimous sentiment of the Commonwealth when I say, I regret the loss to Massachusetts of your learning and wisdom and express the hope that you may soon be restored to health and to the judicial service which you have so long adorned."

[1] Remarks of the Attorney-General at meeting of the Bar of the Commonwealth on November 24, 1900.

During Mr. Endicott's career as Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, a case that created great attention among lawyers was the case of Willis Phelps *vs.* Samuel Bowles *et als.*, Proprietors of the "Springfield Republican," for libel. The damages claimed were very large, amounting to $200,000. The trial was in Springfield from April 27 to May 5, 1875, before Judge Endicott, without a jury. Benjamin F. Thomas and others were counsel for plaintiff. Richard H. Dana and others were counsel for defendants. One of the counsel now living, in giving an account of the trial, says : —

"The alleged libel consisted of imputations, contained in articles published in the 'Republican' upon the plaintiff, in respect to obtaining legislation, and votes of the City of Springfield in aid of certain railroads in which the plaintiff was interested as contractor, stock and bondholder, and president. The case was notable from the character of the charges made, the heavy damages demanded, the eminence of the leading counsel on both sides, and the fact that it was the first instance, in Massachusetts at least, of an action of this kind, for a libel relating to a public and political controversy, being tried otherwise than before a jury. No application for a jury trial was pressed by either party, and so under a statute then recent the trial was before the court without a jury. The grounds of defence were, Truth and Privilege ; there was much evidence ; the case was argued by Mr. Dana and Judge Thomas ; and at the conclusion of the arguments, Judge Endicott (after a few minutes intermission) proceeded to give at length the grounds of his decision. He held that the words used were libellous in their nature ; that the charges made as to the plaintiff's conduct in obtaining legislation and in carrying a vote of the city to aid an earlier railroad enterprise, were proved to be true ; that the leading charges were that 'he bids for a city job,' 'lobbies a bill through the Legislature permitting the city to accept the bid,' 'openly buys votes,' and that, 'having despoiled the city of a large sum of money, he is now using that money, and the power that its expenditure gave him, to despoil her of another sum nearly as large.'"

This last charge he held to be not proved to be either true or within the defendant's privilege, and therefore must find

for the plaintiff; but in view of the plaintiff's practices, he was not entitled to large damages, and judgment was therefore entered for $100 damages. This would carry no costs. A bill of exceptions to certain rulings made during the trial was filed by the plaintiff, but these were not finally pressed, and were never allowed, and several years afterwards the plaintiff died and the action was "dismissed without costs."

In the autumn of 1883, Mr. Endicott returned from Europe and resumed the practice of law. Shortly afterwards he was retained as general counsel of the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company, which position he held for many years.

Originally a Whig in politics, he voted for Taylor and Fillmore in 1848, and for Bell and Everett in 1860, and since those days always supported the Democratic party.

In 1884 he was nominated by the Democratic Convention at Worcester as its candidate for Governor of the Commonwealth, with the Hon. James S. Grinnell of Greenfield as candidate for Lieutenant-Governor. The letter informing him of his unanimous nomination says: "This action of the Convention is a merited recognition of your life-long devotion to Democratic principles — your fidelity to all the public trusts you have assumed, and the dignity, honor, and rectitude that has always marked your intercourse with your fellowmen." At first he refused the nomination, but finally, much against his will, accepted it with the understanding that he should not take the stump, though he did make one speech during the campaign. The Democratic party of Massachusetts at that time had become tinged with Butlerism, and it was thought by the conservative men of the party that the nomination of a man like Mr. Endicott, who had never been closely allied in any way with the machine, would be an advantage to the Cleveland ticket; but Massachusetts was a strong Republican State, and, as was expected, he failed to be elected. Undoubtedly his prominence as candidate for Governor brought him to the attention of Mr. Cleveland, and in February, 1885,

Mr. Cleveland sent for Mr. Endicott to come to Albany, when he offered him a place in his cabinet as Secretary of War. After due consideration, he accepted it, and his career in the War Department, as Secretary of War, during the four years of Mr. Cleveland's administration is now a matter of history. During his term, the times were peaceful and the routine of the War Department under such circumstances is more or less the same in each administration.

A great deal of trouble with the Indians had been brewing, and bloodshed was avoided in Colorado and New Mexico by supplying certain necessities to them. The last of the great Indian fights, the Apache Indian War, was ended by the surrender of the Apache Indians under Geronimo. Many public buildings and monuments were erected, the business methods of the department were simplified, and favoritism in the army was to a great extent broken up, at least as far as it could be under existing conditions. The Record and Pension Division of the Surgeon-General's office, which had been in great confusion, was thoroughly re-organized.

"A Board on Fortification and other Defences," known as the "Endicott Board," of which Mr. Endicott was chairman, was created by an act of Congress dated March 3, 1885. The work of the Board was long and laborious, and outlined the policy of the Government in regard to defences for the cities, coasts, and harbors of the country. The coast defences of the present day, for which Congress has made such large appropriations, are the result of the recommendations of this Board.

On May 7, 1900, the Hon. Elihu Root, Secretary of War, issued General Orders No. 69 to the Army, announcing the death of Mr. Endicott as follows: —

"It is with great sorrow that the Secretary of War announces the death of Honorable William Crowninshield Endicott, which occurred at Boston, Massachusetts, yesterday, the 6th instant.

"Mr. Endicott was a direct descendant of Governor John Endicott, who for nearly a quarter of a century (1641–1665) was at the head of

Massachusetts Colony. He was graduated at Harvard in 1847, and entering upon the profession of law, soon reached a high rank at the bar. He held various public offices from time to time until 1873, when he was appointed to the bench of the Supreme Court of Massachusetts. This office he held for ten years, until compelled to resign on account of ill health. Upon the installation of President Cleveland on the 4th of March, 1885, Mr. Endicott was called to his cabinet as Secretary of War, a position which, though foreign to his training, he immediately rendered conspicuous by strict attention to duty and a keen interest in the army and its requirements. He remained at the head of the department during the entire period of President Cleveland's first administration. He initiated many important reforms which, pressed to successful conclusion, enabled him to maintain undiminished that high standard of integrity for which the Department of War has ever been distinguished."

On his return to Massachusetts in 1889, he resumed his profession, and was counsel in several prominent cases; but he never took up the active work of his earlier years, and only accepted a few of the most important cases which came to him.

In 1867, Mr. Endicott was one of nine trustees named by George Peabody of London in his letter of "Gift and Instrument of Trust," accompanying a large donation for "The Promotion of Science and Useful Knowledge in the County of Essex." Francis Peabody of Salem was chosen the first President of the Board of Trustees, and Mr. Endicott, Vice-President. Mr. Peabody died in the autumn of 1867, and on April 13, 1868, the name was changed by the Legislature to the "Trustees of the Peabody Academy of Science." Mr. Endicott was chosen its second President, and held that office until his resignation in 1897.

On October 7, 1891, Mr. Endicott was unanimously chosen to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Judge Charles Devens as one of the Trustees of the Peabody Education Fund, and at the same meeting was appointed a member of the Executive Committee with ex-President Hayes, the Hon.

James D. Porter, Chief-Justice Fuller, the Hon. William A. Courtnay, with the chairman the Hon. Robert C. Winthrop, *Ex-officio*. On April 6, 1897, he resigned from this Board.

He always took a deep interest in the welfare of Harvard College, and was elected a member of the Board of Overseers from 1875 to 1876, from 1876 to 1882, and from 1883 to 1889. In 1885, he resigned as a member of the Board of Overseers for the reason that he had been chosen a Fellow of the Corporation in June, 1884. On Commencement Day, 1882, the degree of LL.D. "was conferred upon him in glad recognition of his attainments, station, and influence." On September 24, 1895, he resigned from the corporation, which passed the following resolutions: —

"The Board desire to record their sense of the high value of Judge Endicott's service to the University, and their regret at losing his support in the discharge of their trust. He brought to the service of the University an honored name, professional distinction, and a high reputation in the community for impartiality, dignity, and firmness.

"The Members of the Board will greatly miss at their meetings not only these rare personal possessions, but also his sincere friendliness and the charm of his courteous, cordial manners."

Thus ended his professional and political career.

On December 13, 1859, Mr. Endicott was married to his cousin, Ellen Peabody, daughter of George and Clara Endicott Peabody, of Salem. Two children were born — William Crowninshield Endicott, on September 28, 1860, and Mary Crowninshield Endicott, on March 15, 1864. The former married, on October 3, 1889, Marie Louise Thoron, and the latter married, on November 15, 1888, Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M. P., of Birmingham, England.

The greater part of his life was spent in Salem, where he lived until 1894, when he moved to Danvers, and passed a large portion of the year upon his place in that town. He

visited Europe several times during this period, but soon withdrew from the active world and led a retired life until his death occurred.

As he entered manhood, he was thrown upon his own resources, and early felt the necessity of active work as a means of livelihood. Could he have led a life free from drudgery, his taste and inclinations would have made it possible for him to have devoted his time to literature and public affairs. He had a natural bent for politics, particularly in his early life, and nothing but his profession prevented him from taking an active part in them. Once absorbed in his professional life, there was time for nothing else. His addresses, such as those delivered in 1867 upon the opening of the Peabody Academy of Science in Salem, and in 1878 upon the 250th Anniversary of the settlement of Salem, were graceful, showed learning and "refined and severe" taste in his use of language.

He always stood for what was best, and was consistently firm, impartial, dignified, and just. He had righteous contempt for anything that was mean or unworthy, and held those standards which belong to the higher type of a New England man.

He was well read, with a knowledge of books which made him a charming companion. His library, which he had gradually accumulated, showed him to be well versed in law, history, biographies, political economy, poetry (for which he had an unusual perception and appreciation), and the standard works of fiction.

It has been often said that he was born to be a judge, and he certainly filled that office with dignity, patience, honor, and ability. At a recent meeting of the Bar of the Commonwealth, called by the Bar Association of the City of Boston, many flattering tributes were paid to his memory by Bench and Bar alike. The Hon. Richard Olney, who had been a lifelong friend of his, said: —

"Judge Endicott was always and everywhere the gentleman. He was so not merely in manner and by an uncommon elegance of deportment, but through an innate sense of justice and a natural love of fair play, which made him no respecter of persons, and made the humblest suitor in his court sure of an impartial hearing and secure in every just claim. The combination of such traits with the knowledge and wisdom derived from constant study of the law and its application to the practical affairs of life made Judge Endicott approach the ideal of a judge as nearly as the lot of humanity will permit."

In appearance he was tall and striking. With dignity and repose of bearing, and with unusual charm of manner, he attracted all with whom he came in contact. Democratic and simple in his tastes, he made lasting friends among all classes. He firmly believed, in the words of Tennyson, which he often quoted: —

> "Self-reverence, self-knowledge, self-control,
> These three alone lead life to sovereign power.
> Yet not for power (power of herself
> Would come uncall'd for) but to live by law,
> Acting the law we live by without fear;
> And, because right is right, to follow right
> Were wisdom in the scorn of consequence."

SUMMARY.

Nov. 19, 1826.	Born at Salem. Son of William Putnam and Mary Crowninshield Endicott.
July 1, 1827.	Baptized William Gardner Endicott.
April 19, 1837.	Name changed by a special Act of the Legislature to William Crowninshield Endicott.
March 13, 1838.	Mother, Mary Crowninshield Endicott, died.
Aug. 28, 1843.	Entered Harvard College.
Aug. 25, 1847.	Received degree of A.B. from Harvard College. In the order of exercises No. 10, delivered a Disquisition "Public Honors in Different Ages."
1847–1849.	Studied law in the office of Nathaniel J. Lord.
May 8, 1848.	Commission signed by Gov. George N. Briggs as 1st Lieutenant in the 6th Regiment of Light Infantry in the 4th Brigade, 2d Division of the Militia of the Commonwealth (elected April 29, 1848).
Sept. 10, 1849.	Entered Harvard Law School, and was there during year 1849–1850.
Sept. 13, 1850.	Commission signed by Gov. George N. Briggs as Captain in the 6th Regiment of Light Infantry in the 4th Brigade, 2d Division of the Militia of the Commonwealth (elected Sept. 9, 1850; resigned Jan. 29, 1852).
Nov. term, 1850.	Admitted as attorney and counsellor-at-law at Essex County Bar.
1850–1873.	Practised law in Salem.
1852–1853.	Member of Salem Common Council.

1853.	Formed co-partnership with Jairus Ware Perry under firm name of "Perry & Endicott."
Oct. 16, 1854.	Admitted as attorney and counsellor-at-law in the Circuit Court of the United States, at Boston.
1857.	Member of Salem Common Council.
Jan. 25, 1857.	Elected President of Salem Common Council.
1858–1864.	President of Salem Bank.
1858–1863.	City Solicitor of Salem.
Oct. 12, 1858.	Elected Honorary Member of the Phi Beta Kappa Alpha Society of Massachusetts.
Dec. 13, 1859.	Married Ellen Peabody, daughter of George and Clara (Endicott) Peabody, of Salem.
Sept. 28, 1860.	Son, William Crowninshield Endicott, born.
Nov. 13, 1860.	Elected Honorary Member of the Salem Light Infantry.
1861–1900.	Trustee of Salem Savings Bank.
1864–1875.	President of Salem National Bank.
March 15, 1864.	Daughter, Mary Crowninshield Endicott, born.
April 14, 1864.	Elected Resident Member of the Massachusetts Historical Society.
Nov. 6, 1866, Nov. 5, 1867, Nov. 3, 1868.	Ran as Democratic Candidate for Attorney-General.
1867–1868.	Vice-President Board of "Trustees for the Promotion of Science and Useful Knowledge in the County of Essex."
1868–1897.	President of the Board of "Trustees of the Peabody Academy of Science" at Salem.
Nov. 8, 1870.	Ran for 42d Congress in 5th District as Democratic Candidate, against Benjamin F. Butler, Republican.
March 5, 1873.	Commission as Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court, signed by Gov. William B. Washburn.
March 8, 1873.	Took oath of office before Gov. William B. Washburn.
1875–1876.	Elected Overseer of Harvard College.
1876-1882.	" " "
June 28, 1882.	Received degree of LL.D from Harvard College.

Oct. 25, 1882.	Resignation as Associate Justice of the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts accepted.
1883–1889.	Elected Overseer of Harvard College. Resigned April 15, 1885.
1884–1897.	Trustee of Groton School.
May 20, 1884.	Chosen a Fellow of the Corporation of Harvard College.
June 9, 1884.	Elected Counsel of the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company (resigned July 14, 1897).
June 18, 1884.	Confirmed by Board of Overseers as Fellow of the Corporation of Harvard College (resigned Sept. 24, 1895).
Sept. 3, 1884.	Nominated at Worcester as Democratic Candidate for Governor of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts with the Hon. James S. Grinnell as candidate for Lieutenant-Governor.
Oct. 20, 1884.	Elected member of the American Historical Association.
Nov. 4, 1884.	Defeated as candidate for governor by the Hon. George D. Robinson.
Jan. 26, 1885.	Elected Director of the New England Mutual Life Insurance Company (resigned July 14, 1897).
1885–1900.	Member of the Saturday Club.
March 6, 1885.	Appointed Secretary of War by President Cleveland.
March 11, 1888.	Father, William Putnam Endicott, died.
1888–1890.	President of the Alumni Association of Harvard College.
Nov. 15, 1888.	Daughter married Rt. Hon. Joseph Chamberlain, M. P., of Birmingham, England.
March 5, 1889.	Resignation as Secretary of War accepted by President Harrison.
Oct. 3, 1889.	Son married Marie Louise Thoron.
Oct. 25, 1889.	Appointed member of the Committee on Supreme Court Centennial Celebration.
Oct. 7, 1891.	Appointed trustee on the part of the Commonwealth of the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary (resigned Jan. 31, 1896).

1892–1894.	First president of the University Club, of Boston.
Feb. 18, 1893.	Elected member of the Colonial Society of Massachusetts.
May 6, 1900.	Died at his winter residence in Boston (163 Marlborough Street).
May 9, 1900.	Funeral services from his late residence in Boston. Burial at Harmony Grove Cemetery, Salem, Massachusetts.

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